

"Have A Buck!"

Text: Isaiah 53:12, "He poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Most of us are probably very adept these days with a buck. By this I mean that with the high prices, and the shortages and so on we must do some juggling and figuring to get the most for our money. Now this is one kind of buck. But I am thinking this morning of another sort of buck. The late Harry S. Truman once made the classic remark, "The buck stops here," referring of course to the fact that all of the agencies and departments of our government, could pass the buck on up to the president. But when it finally reached him it stopped there, since he could not hand it on to someone else.

If we look back to the earliest history of man we see that the passing of the buck, was originated with Adam and Eve. When God asked Adam why he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he answered, "Why not ask her, it was her idea." Eve answered, "Don't put the blame on me, it was that tricky snake that hangs around that tree."

When Moses was sought by God to lead the Israelites from captivity, he answered God, "Why me? I am not able to lead them, and besides I cannot speak correctly. Get someone else."

When King David was confronted with the immoral thing that he had done he answered, "If only she had not been taking her bath that day, it's all her fault." If Bathsheba was asked about it, her answer probably was, "Well after all he is the king, and when he gives an order we must obey. So don't blame me, it was his fault."

And so the history goes on, down through the centuries until we reach the age of Christ. And even in His lifetime we see the passing of the buck. Two of His very disciples were guilty of this. Peter, who sat in the courtyard, trying to find out what was going to happen to his master, when confronted by those who tried to place him at the scenes of the ministry of Jesus, said, "Who me? Surely you must be mistaken. Why I

know nothing of this man. It must have been someone else.W

Judas after he had betrayed Jesus went back to return the money and told them, "Here is your money back, his blood is upon you and you are responsible for what happens."

But with all of this history of buck passing, God had made provision for this a long time before much of this history took place. In Leviticus 16 we read for instance of the preparations that God has made and laid out to make atonement for his people.

What took place on this special day was briefly that first the priest placed his hands on the head of a bull in the temple, and he confessed his sins and the sins of his house. Then the bull was slain and its blood was placed into a basin. Then he entered the Holy of Holies twice. First with a censor filled with incense, and then with the basin of blood which he sprinkled on the mercy seat. This was the sacrifice for the priests. Then the priest went to where there were two goats that had been brought forth. Placing his hands in an urn that had two lots in it, he took a lot in each hand. Then turning he placed his hands on the heads of the goats, and the one lot was for the Lord, and he repeated this over the appropriate goat. And the other lot was for Azazel, and this goat then had a red ribbon tied around its neck. Azazel probably meant "scape goat."

The goat for the Lord was then slain, and its blood was sprinkled on the horns of the altar of incense which stood before the veil. Then the scape goat was released to remove the guilt resting on the people themselves. The goat was led out supposedly to wander in the wilderness. But really it was driven out ^{over the mountains} a route from the city to a cliff ~~overlooking~~ at the edge of town. Here the goat had a rock tied to the red ribbon and the rock was thrown over the cliff with the goat following it, and naturally the goat was killed. According to legend a red thread that was tied to the door of the temple turned white at the very moment that the scapegoat was

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
COMMUNION SUNDAY JULY 7, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINN, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
SHARI MCBRIDE, BRIAN KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION 10:00 A.M.
PRELUDE MUSIC: "ANDANTE RELIGIOSO" GOTTSCHALK
"COMMUNION" SERGISSON

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 14 "PRAISE YE THE FATHER"
*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
*CALL TO WORSHIP
*INVOCATION
*PRAISE
*PASTOR - O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS
*PEOPLE - AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY
SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 53
ANNOUNCEMENTS
OFFERING
OFFERTORY: "AGNUS DEI" BIZET
PIANO - MARILYN STEPHENSON
ORGAN - VELMA COLLINS
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS
SOLO: KARL WHITE
SERMON: "PASS THE BUCK!"

*GLORIA PATRI
*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)
COMMUNION HYMN No. 341 "HERE, O MY LORD"
*CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32
*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *INSTITUTION *AGNUS DEI
THE HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS UNTIL ALL ARE SERVED)
*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN
*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 338 "ACCORDING TO THY GRACIOUS WORD"
*BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN
*POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" TEILMAN
*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. NICK NOHACH IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES". THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL ALSO SERVE AS USHERS TODAY. ELDER AND MRS. CHESTER STAUFFER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY SHARON STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCPHIE.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR CHURCH TODAY: LARRY R. FALKNER, MR. & MRS. JOHN STEVENSON. HOSPITALIZED: ~~MRS. VIRGINIA BERTT~~ 462;

~~MR. WILLIAM WINTERS~~ 467. - ALL *4195 NOW*

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 176.
PLEASE GET YOUR CONFIRMATION CLASS CAMP REGISTRATIONS IN NOW. \$20.00 WILL BE PAID BY THE CHURCH AND \$15. TO BE PAID BY PARENTS. THE CAMP WILL BE AT CAMP LIVING WATERS - AUG. 4-10.

DATE TO REMEMBER - WED. JULY 24 - 6:00 P.M. - CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC - ALAMEDA PARK - SHELTER CLOSEST SWIMMING POOL - SPONSORED BY THE LAY LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE.

REV. & MRS. LEE NEUHAUS AND THEIR SON KURT AND JON WILL BE VISITING IN BUTLER LATE IN JULY AT THE HOME OF MR. & MRS. EUGENE STEPHENSON. OPEN HOUSE IS PLANNED FOR JULY 31 FROM 7-9 P.M. SO THAT ANY OF YOU WHO WANT TO SAY 'HELLO' CAN DO SO. LEE AND KATHY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS CHANCE TO SEE MANY OF THEIR FRIENDS HERE.

SOME DATES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FLOWER CHART:
AUG. 25; SEPT. 1, 15, 22, 29 AND LATER DATES.

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, IN WHOSE HANDS ARE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD; WE GIVE THEE THANKS FOR ALL THOSE THY SERVANTS WHO HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY. GRANT TO THEM THY MERCY AND THE LIGHT OF THY PRESENCE, THAT THE GOOD WORK WHICH THOU HAST BEGUN IN THEM MAY BE PERFECTED; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

*Karl
White
ILL*

SEND
COMMUNION CARDS ARE IN THE PEWS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT SENT TO YOUR HOME CHURCH (IF YOU ARE VISITING) PUT THE NAME OF CHURCH AND ADDRESS ON CARD.
*MRS. MRS. WEITZEL - YOUNG'S
DURING H-WAY 12:00 AM
WELCOMING VISITORS - GREET ONE ANOTHER*

Then bull slain, blood placed basin
 Then he enter Holy of Holies twice,
 1st censor filled incense, then basin blood,
 this sprinkled on mercy seat.
 This, the sacrifice for priests.

Then 2 goats brot 4th.
 pl/ ing hands in urn had 2 lots in it, took lot
 each band.

place bands heads of goats.
 1 lot for Lord, & be repeat this over appropriate
 other lot for AZAZEL, meant Scapegoat. goat
 red ribbon tied on neck
 Goat for Lord slain, blood sprinkled horns altar of
 incense which stood before veil
 Then scapegoat released 2 remove guilt resting on
 peop themselves.

Goat led out to supposedly wander in wilderness.
 Actually driven out pre-arranged route from city
 to cliff, edge of town

Here rock tied red ribbon, rock thrown over cliff
 & naturally goat follow it & killed
 According to legend red thred tied door of Temp, &
 this turned white at very moment scapegoat was slain
 & this signify peop cleansed of sin.

Now in this we see God provided substitute took upon
 self sins of peop.

In this case it was goat.
 It remained this way yr after yr, the peop celebra
 Day of Atonement with priest entering Holy of Holies
 to offer blood of bull for peop,
 & goat being driven out to cleanse peop.

Remained this way until Js Xp,
 On day His crucifix, He became scapegoat for sine
 peop.

His blood poured out upon mercy seat for cleanse
 peop

On this day also veil of temp ripped top/bottom
 Thus revealed 1st time interior Holy of Holies

Significance of this man need never go priest again
 to intercede to God for his sins.
 Man could now go directly to Js Xp to intercede
 to God for him.

This what Lord's Supper all about.
 It observance commemorating deth Saviour Js Xp
 But also opportunity each come 2 God thru Js Xp,
 & have sins we committed & forgiven, & never to
 be remembered against us again.

Communion Meditation "Pass The Buck!"

Te : Isaiah 53:12,

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

"He hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was
 numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the
 sin of many, and made intercession for the trans-
 gressor."

(Illustration passing the buck: boy on cats tail)
 This is a good example of what is commonly called,
 "Passing The Buck."

Harry S. Truman quote: "The buck stops here."

Passing buck originated with Adam & Eve.

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Answer: "Ask her, it was her idea."

Eve answer: "Don't blame me, it was tricky snake
 that hangs around that tree."

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 God, "Why me? I not able lead them, cannot speak
 correctly, get someone else."

King David confronted with immoral act, he answer,
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Bathsheba answer if asked, "Well, after all he king,
 and when king gives order you obey."

So hist. goes on & on, down thru centuries unti age
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Even His lifetime we C passing buck

2 disciples guilty this.

Pete in courtyard, try find out what happen maste

3,
 he confronted by those who try place him scene
 of Js ministry,

He say, "Who me? Surely I mistaken. Why I no nothing
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 for what happen."

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 but God made provision for this, long time before
 much this history take place.

Lev. 16 we read preparations God made & laid out
 make atonement His peop

What took place this special day was this:

1st priest place hands head bull in temp,

& he confess sins & sins his house.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.